

## **POSSIBLE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS FOR TAUTOG**

The department plans to implement changes for the commercial and recreational tautog fishery in response to the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Tautog.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission approved Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Tautog in October 2017. States are required to implement the season and size management measures of the amendment by April 2018 and the commercial tagging program by January 2019. The goal of Amendment 1 is to sustainably manage tautog over the long-term using regional differences in biology and fishery characteristics as the basis for management.

### Measures that Apply to Both Recreational and Commercial Harvest

According to Amendment 1, recreational management measures must meet or exceed the following guidelines: 16 inch minimum size, four fish, with a closure from May 16 through June 30 and be implemented by April 1, 2018. In Maryland, commercial management measures match recreational. Based on discussions with neighboring states and comments received at meetings, the department is considering changes which are more conservative than the management measures in Amendment 1. The season and limits for 2018 will be:

January 1 — May 15	No changes (4 fish/person/day)
May 16 — June 30	Closed
July 1 — Oct 31	2 fish/person/day
November 1 — December 31	4 fish/person/day

### Measures that Apply to Commercial Harvest

Amendment 1 requires states to implement a commercial harvest tagging program by January 1, 2019. The tagging program is necessary to minimize the illegal, unreported, and undocumented catch of tautog. All commercially caught tautog will be tagged by the harvester at the time of harvest or prior to offloading.

Additional Information: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Tautog [asmfc.org/uploads/file/5a0477c3TautogAmendment1\\_Oct2017.pdf](http://asmfc.org/uploads/file/5a0477c3TautogAmendment1_Oct2017.pdf)